

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECLA, SPOP, CERDS, MX

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION ON CERDS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
AS SEEN IN LIGHT OF RECENT POPULATION CONFERENCE

REFS: MEXICO 2150; MEXICO 2107; USUN 9493

1. AS HEAD OF THE USDEL TO THE RECENT UN/ECLA REGIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE HELD IN MEXICO CITY, I WAS STRUCK BY THE PROBLEMS ARISING FOR THE USG FROM REFERENCES TO CERDS IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT. LATTER WAS A GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT, BUT AT ONE POINT -- DESPITE LABORIOUSLY NEGOTIATED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE, IT SEEMED THAT WE WERE TO BE OBLIGED TO VOTE AGAINST THE ENTIRE REPORT BECAUSE 3 OF ITS 58 ARTICLES WERE LINKED TO CERDS PROPOSALS. MOREOVER, WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE WHICH, BRIEFLY, ALMOST CAUSED THE MEXICAN SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE TO INSIST ON RETURNING TO ORIGINAL LANGUAGE, AS HE WAS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION WE WERE RENEGING ON COMPROMISE. THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION PERMITTING US TO JOIN THE CONSENSUS WAS MADE ONLY AS WE WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION. I AM GRATEFUL TO THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT (MEXICO 2107) WHO HELPED US GET THIS AUTHORIZATION TO JOIN CONSENSUS, BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT FUTURE CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS MIGHT NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ANGUISH OF SUCH CLIFF-HANGING AGAIN.

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2. IT IS APPARENT THAT REFERENCES TO CERDS WILL NOT ONLY BE MADE FOR SOME TIME BUT MAY BECOME MAJOR ISSUES AT MOST OR ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN WHICH MEXICO PARTICIPATES, PARTICULARLY MEETINGS WHICH BRING TOGETHER LDC'S AND INDUSTRIALIZED STATES. I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT WHILE PROTECTING US INTERESTS AND GUARDING AGAINST EROSION OF THE WELL-ESTABLISHED USG POSITION OPPOSING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE CERDS, WE SHOULD NOT OVERREACT TO THIS ISSUE, ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE CONSISTENTLY ISOLATED BY STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO ANY REFERENCE TO CERDS IN CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENTS WE WOULD OTHERWISE FAVOR, ENHANCE CERDS SIGNIFICANCE BY MAKING THE ISSUE REPEATEDLY A BATTLEGROUND, OR FORGET THAT MUCH OF CERDS ITSELF IS AS ACCEPTABLE TO US AS MOTHERHOOD.

3. I URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE PROMPT ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BROAD-GAUGE, NON-CONTENTIOUS FORMULATION ON CERDS IN THE FORM OF SUCCINCT LANGUAGE WHICH MAY BE EASILY ADAPTED TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF FUTURE CONFERENCES AT WHICH CERDS IS LIKELY TO ARISE. HOPEFULLY, SUCH FORMULATION WOULD PERMIT US TO PROTECT THE USG POSITION WITHOUT THE RISKS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WITHOUT ACTUALLY STRENGTHENING CERDS PROPONENTS THROUGH STUBBORN AND TIME-CONSUMING HAGGLING OVER WORDS, OR PROVOKING MEXICANS OR OTHERS INTO EXTRANEIOUS DEBATE (USUN 9493).

4. I THINK THAT IT IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO SAFEGUARD THE US FROM ANY IMPLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA THAT THE CERDS CONSTITUTES BINDING INTERNATIONAL LAW, OR THAT, IN FACT, THE US IS BOUND BY THE CERDS IN ANY WAY.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CAST ITSELF IN THE ROLE OF SOME HOT-BLOODED MINI-STATE PROCLAIMING ITS MACHISMO. WE MUST BE SELECTIVE, TACTFUL, AND FIRM IN DEFENDING POINTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT WE MUST NOT SO OVERREACT AND BECOME SO INFLEXIBLE AND OVERLY LEGALISTIC THAT WE CHEAPENFH OURSELVES WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY MAGNIFYING THE PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF CERDS.

6. I WOULD SUGGEST WE DEVISE A LOW-KEY FORMULA, EXPLAINING OUR POSITION ON CERDS WHICH WE CAN AUTOMATICALLY USE AS A RESERVATION OR THE RECORD WHENEVER THE GOM SUCCEEDS IN INCORPORATING

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A REFERENCE TO CERDS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS BUT WHICH AT THE SAME TIME WILL ENABLE US TO APPROVE THE DOCUMENTS IF IT IS OTHERWISE IN OUR INTEREST TO DO SO.

7. I HOPE THIS FORMULA CAN BE DEvised BEFORE THE FORTH-COMING I.W.Y.C. TO BE HELD IN MEXICO.

8. INCIDENTALLY, SHOULD ECHEVERRIA GET A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

FOR INVENTING CERDS (MEXICO 2278) THIS MIGHT MAKE OUR
POSITION ON IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. I HOPE DEPARTMENT IS KEEPING
ONE EYE ON THIS POSSIBILITY.
JOVA

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